

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5039

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (JAVITS, JACOB SENATOR)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF SENATOR JAVITS

REF: STATE 089669

1. I TOO HAVE BEEN A BIT CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT EGYPTIAN KNOWLEDGE OF SENATOR'S INITIAL PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO C-130 SALE COULD CAST PALL ON HIS UPCOMING VISIT. EGYPTIANS ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE OF THE SENATOR'S NEW YORK CONSTITUENCY AND STRONG PRO-ISRAELI VIEWS.

2. TO MINIMIZE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MIGHT BE SPILL-OVER ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE SENATOR'S VISIT, I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN OPPORTUNITIES WITH PRESIDENCY STAFF, VP MUBARAK AND OTHERS TO STRESS THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE SENATOR PLAYED IN WORKING OUT AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE ON C-130 SALE. AS A RESULT, I BELIEVE THERE IS A BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SENATOR'S POSITION. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, AHAM OF A FEW DAYS AGO FRONT-PAGED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SENATOR'S UPCOMING VISIT TO CAIRO AND ADDED THAT HE HAD ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT HE WAS NOT OPPOSING THE SALE OF SIX C-130 AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT. THIS KIND OF PUBLICITY, WHILE HARDLY FULSOME, IS NEVERTHELESS HELPFUL. I WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT BROADER EGYPTIAN REALIZATION OF THE SENATOR'S ROLE.

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3. EGYPTIANS ARE INTERESTED IN MEETING THE SENATOR AND HEARING HIS VIEWS. I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE EGYPTIANS WILL DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN WELCOME HIM CORRECTLY AND HOSPITABLY. I AM SURE HIS TALKS WITH SADAT AND OTHERS WILL BE USEFUL, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY WELL BE SOME RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF CERTAIN MINISTERS TO SAY VERY MUCH. WE WILL ENCOURAGE THEM TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE SO THAT BOTH SIDES DERIVE MUTUAL BENEFIT FROM VISIT.

4. SO FAR AS THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED, HE IS TOO BIG A MAN TO HARBER GRUDGES AND I KNOW FROM TALKING WITH HIM TODAY THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE SENATOR'S VISIT. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE, HOWEVER, MEETING MAY HAVE TO TAKE PLACE AT BURG AL-ARAB, SOME THREE HOURS DRIVE FROM CAIRO. THIS IS NOT YET CERTAIN, BUT AS OF THIS AFTERNOON SEEMS VERY LIKELY.
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